



P04BF

Fuel Fill Door Unlock Control Circuit/Open

P04BF indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an open circuit or excessive resistance in the fuel fill door unlock control circuit. The PCM commands the fuel door actuator to unlock, but the feedback signal does not match the expected voltage, so the circuit is considered open.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Low	Intermediate	Auxiliary emission controls

Symptoms you may notice

- The fuel fill door will not unlock when the unlock button is pressed.
- A warning light on the dashboard, often the check engine light or a dedicated message.
- The fuel door may only open manually using the emergency release.
- In some vehicles, the remote key fob unlock function for the fuel door does not work.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, as the door may still open via other methods.
- Intermittent operation where the door unlocks sometimes but not consistently.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Broken or corroded wires in the fuel fill door unlock actuator circuit.
- 2 Failed fuel fill door unlock actuator (solenoid or motor).
- 3 Poor electrical connection at the actuator or PCM connector.
- 4 Blown fuse or faulty relay supplying power to the actuator circuit.
- 5 Damaged fuel fill door latch mechanism causing the actuator to bind.
- 6 PCM internal fault (rare).

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the fuse and relay related to the fuel fill door unlock circuit.
- 2 Inspect the wiring harness and connectors at the fuel fill door actuator for damage or corrosion.
- 3 Test the actuator with a multimeter to verify resistance and operation.
- 4 Check for power and ground signals at the actuator connector while commanding unlock.
- 5 Inspect the fuel fill door latch for mechanical binding or obstruction.
- 6 If the actuator is faulty, replace it and clear the code.
- 7 If wiring is damaged, repair or replace the affected section and retest.



Common misdiagnosis of P04BF

- A stuck or binding fuel door latch can mimic an open circuit by preventing the actuator from moving, so always check mechanical operation first.
- Corrosion inside the actuator connector is a frequent cause that is often overlooked during visual inspection.
- The code can set intermittently due to a loose ground connection, so wiggle-test wires while monitoring live data.
- Replacing the actuator without checking the circuit can lead to repeat failures if the root cause is a wiring short.
- Some vehicles use a shared circuit with the central locking system, so other door lock issues may accompany this code.

Can I keep driving with P04BF?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the fuel fill door unlock function does not affect engine operation or safety systems. However, you may need to use the manual release to refuel, so avoid waiting until the tank is empty before addressing the issue.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Wire probe set
- Service manual for wiring diagrams

Reading P04BF

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
4	Auxiliary emission controls.
BF	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P04BE Fuel Fill Door Lock Control Circuit High · **P04C0** Fuel Fill Door Unlock Control Range/Performance · **P04C1** Fuel Fill Door Unlock Control Circuit Low · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Automatic Transmission Works, Gear by Gear](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p04bf/>

